

Message Text

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0324

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DISCUSSION OF FORCE DEFINITIONS WITH THE EAST

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS REPORT GIVES A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT STATUS OF FORCE DEFINITION DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF JUNE 30, UK REP (ROSE) REPORTED ON A BILATERAL CONVERSATION WHICH HE HAD HAD WITH SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) BEFORE THE JUNE 26 PLENARY SESSION. UK REP SAID THAT, FOLLOWING ON DISCUSSION IN THE AD HOC MEETING OF JUNE 25, HE HAD TOLD KHLESTOV THAT THE WEST WOULD BE READY TO DISCUSS DEFINITIONS AT THE JULY 1 INFORMAL AND ALSO THAT THE ALLIES AGREED THAT EACH PARTICIPATING DELEGATION COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A
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MILITARY EXPERT. KHLESTOV HAD ASKED FOR THE

ALLIES' VIEWS ON POSSIBLE FURTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS ON DEFINITIONS, TO WHICH UK REP HAD RESPONDED THAT PARTICIPANTS COULD DECIDE ON THIS AT THE JULY 1 INFORMAL. KHLESTOV ALSO ASKED HOW THE WEST VIEWED HIS FORMULATION OF THE AGENDA ITEM UNDER WHICH DEFINITIONS WOULD BE DISCUSSED. UK REP REPLIED THAT EACH SIDE NOW HAD GIVEN THE OTHER ITS PREFERRED FORMULATION. EACH SIDE KNEW WHAT IT WAS THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT. RATHER THAN SPENDING MORE TIME IN AN EFFORT TO COME UP WITH AN AGREED FORMULATION, UK REP THOUGHT IT BEST FOR THE TWO SIDES TO GET DOWN TO DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. UK REP REPORTED THAT KHLESTOV HAD AGREED TO THIS SUGGEST WITH APPARENT ENTHUSIASM. UK REP EXPRESSED THE VIEW TO THE AD HOC GROUP THAT, IN VIEW OF THIS CONVERSATION, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE TO AVOID THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF FORMULATING AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE JULY 1 INFORMAL AND MOVE DIRECTLY ON TO DEFINITIONS. THE GROUP AGREED.

3. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE AD HOC GROUP THAT, SINCE THE WEST ITSELF HAD REPEATEDLY PROPOSED THAT EAST AND WEST WORK TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON A DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND HAD ALSO REPEATEDLY OFFERED TO EXCHANGE DATA ON AIR FORCES AND SINCE WESTERN PROPOSALS TO THE EAST COVERED BOTH GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER (ALTHOUGH THE WEST OPPOSED REDUCTIONS IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER), THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REJECT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO DEFINE GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

4. IN THE INFORMAL SESSION ON JULY 1, THE SOVIETS PRESENTED A FORCE DEFINITION OF THEIR OWN (DETAILS IN SEPTEL). THE DELEGATION INTENDS TO ADOPT THE SAME POSITION TOWARDS THIS SOVIET PROPOSAL AS TO OTHER PROPOSALS MADE BY THE EAST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THUSFAR: TO DEVELOP WHAT THE EAST HAS IN MIND, TO EVALUATE ITS IMPLICATIONS WITHIN THE AD HOC GROUP, TO EXPOSE ITS SHORTCOMINGS FROM THE WESTERN VIEWPOINT, AND TO MAKE NO COMMITMENTS. THE DELEGATION HAS IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE US HAS PROPOSED TO NATO THAT THE ALLIES PUT FORWARD THE IDEA OF EXTENDING THE COMMON CEILING TO COVER AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN CONNECTION

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WITH OPTION 3. UK AND FRG REPS HERE AGREE WITH US THAT, FOR THAT REASON, THE ALLIES SHOULD AVOID TAKING POSITIONS ON THE DEFINITION ISSUE WHICH MIGHT CONFLICT WITH THIS WESTERN MOVE. IN PARTICULAR, WE WILL AVOID ELICITING EASTERN INTEREST IN THE EARLIER WESTERN PROPOSAL TO DEDUCT POLISH AND CZECH GROUND-BASED TERRITORIAL AREA AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL FROM PACT GROUND FORCES, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE SUPERSEDED BY A WESTERN

PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE COMMON CEILING TO AIR FORCE MANPOWER.
BECAUSE THE EAST HAS AGAIN REJECTED THE WESTERN DEFINITION ON THE
GROUNDS THAT IT DOES NOT REALISTICALLY COVER ACTUAL DIFFERENCES IN
FORCE ORGANIZATION AND THE WEST WILL NOT MAKE ANY COMMIT-
MENTS ON THE EASTERN DEFINITION, WE DO NOT EXPECT
ANY OUTCOME IN THIS ROUND FROM THE DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS.RESOR

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